

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05138 062144Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05138

FROM VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: ILO, PROG, IS
SUBJECT: ILO MISSION TO ISRAEL

REF: TEL AVIV 4215

SUMMARY: THE ILO MISSION TO ISRAEL TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES
BY ARABS OF VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WILL BEGIN APRIL 12. MISSION LEADER
VALTICOS IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE ISRAELIS AND ARABS WILL
BE COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE AND THAT THE REPORT ON HIS
FINDINGS WILL BE BALANCED AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES
CONCERNED. VALTICOS MAY REQUEST OUR ASSISTANCE SHOULD
ANY ROADBLOCKS DEVELOP. END SUMMARY

1. ILO LEGAL ADVISER FRANCIS WOLF AND NICHOLAS VALTICOS,
DIRECTOR, APPLICATION OF STANDARDS DIVISION, BRIEFED ME
APRIL 5 ON THEIR UPCOMING MISSION TO ISRAEL. THEY SAID
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 05138 062144Z

DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD HAD INSTRUCTED THEM TO DO SO.

2. VALTICOS AND TWO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF PLAN TO DEPART
GENEVA APRIL 11 FOR TEL AVIV. THEY WILL BE STAYING AT
THE HOTEL HILTON. VALTICOS SAID HIS MISSION, BASED ON
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S LETTER OF JUNE 9, 1977, HAD BEEN
AGREED TO BY ISRAEL, JORDAN, EGYPT, SYRIA AND THE PALES-

TINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO). HE SAID THE PLO HAD REQUESTED HIM TO GO TO DAMASCUS ON HIS WAY TO TEL AVIV TO SPEAK WITH PALESTINIAN WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS BUT HE DECLINED. HE RECOGNIZES HIS MISSION WILL BE DIFFICULT SINCE LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES REFLECT THE "STATE OF WAR" RATHER THAN NORMAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

3. I ASKED HIM IF HE THOUGHT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE PRISONERS WHO CLAIM TO BE JAILED BECAUSE OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES. HE RESPONDED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD BEEN MADE GENERALLY AWARE OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED IN THE ONSITE INVESTIGATION BUT THAT HE PLANNED TO RAISE THE PRISONER QUESTION SPECIFICALLY WITH THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERE PRIOR TO LEAVING GENEVA. HE SAID HE ANTICIPATED NO RESISTANCE FROM THE ISRAELIS IN CARRYING OUT HIS MISSION SINCE ANY INTERFERENCE WOULD NATURALLY HAVE TO BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT HIS TEAM WILL WRITE.

4. VALTICOS BELIEVES AND HOPES THE REPORT WILL BE A BALANCED ONE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS. THIS LED ME TO ASK WOLF IF HE THOUGHT A CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL COULD BE AVOIDED IN THE JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE. WOLF REPLIED OPTIMISTICALLY, STATING THAT ALL THE ELEMENTS THE ILO STAFF CAN ANTICIPATE HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF BUT THAT ONE CAN NEVER BE CERTAIN OF LAST MINUTE INCIDENTS. HE STATED THAT RESOLUTIONS HAVE TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05138 062144Z

SUBMITTED FIFTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE, I.E. MAY 24.

5. I TOLD VALTICOS THAT I WOULD ALERT OUR EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV ABOUT HIS ARRIVAL. I ADDED THAT, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT HIS MISSION WERE TO RUN INTO ANY DIFFICULTY, WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP. VANDEN HEUVEL

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